

# MIDDLETOWN DIVISION OF FIRE



## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

October 12, 2007

Steve Husemann, Interim City Manager  
City of Middletown  
One Donham Plaza  
Middletown, OH 45042

Mr. Husemann,

It is my honor to submit the Middletown Division of Fire (MDF) Annual Report for 2006. This year was one of continued challenges and changes for the division. The most notable change would have been in the area of personnel as the Division saw retirements in two key positions that totaled a loss of almost 60 years of experience. The continued challenge would be the division's completion of its second year at a reduced staffing level due to budget reductions; with buildings and apparatus aging and run volumes increasing. The one constant remains, the Division is composed of Firefighters finding a way to deliver the best possible service despite these obstacles.

**Personnel:**

Assistant Fire Chief Bob Kennedy and Administrative Assistant Karen Caverly retired in 2006. They gave large parts of themselves over decades to the division serving the proud community of Middletown. We are better for their service.

**Alarm Data:**

You will read Deputy Chief Jim Hall's account of alarm data for 2006 listing the continued upward trend of 200-250 runs each year with a total of 8,549 calls for service. It is significant to report although there were no fatal fires in 2006, there were 13 civilian and 18 firefighter injuries.

**EMS:**

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training Captain Adams reports MDF responded to 7,067 medical emergencies in 2006 an increase of 250 calls from 2005. The data identifies an average of over 19 Medic calls per day. The increased workload with reduced staffing is responsible for a marked increase in response times. The average response time was 4:17 minutes. This is a more than 30 second increase from the year 2000.

**Fire Prevention:**

In the Areas of Fire Prevention, Life Safety Education, and Fire Investigation Fire Marshal Brent Hughes reports for 2006 the office was involved in all duties to be expected with notable gains in the area of training for our Fire Marshals. We expect this training to pay dividends in future years by more expert function in the stated areas.

**Fire Training:**

Captain Richard Rainey details in this report the ever changing environment for the MDF Firefighter in 2006 saw the foundation of Fire Suppression and Rescue Operations continue to evolve, including federally mandated training for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Command and Control for manmade and natural disasters, all while there were no dollars for discretionary training and reduced dollars for mandatory training.

**Hazardous Materials and Special Operations:**

Captain Brent Dominy reports responses to emergencies both in the city and throughout the county as part of the County Cooperative. This is a significant response capability provided in a cost effective manner through regional automatic aid agreements with both public and private sector partnerships. Ultimately, this displayed a stellar example of how MDF in 2006 did better with less through hard work and creative thinking. Finally, it must be noted the firefighters that make up these teams have performed advanced training and answered dangerous calls all while receiving no extra pay.

**Building and Grounds:**

Deputy Chief Dennis Sorrell delivers a list of needed repairs in the area of buildings and grounds totaling near \$1 million dollars. His narrative includes, "There have been few to no major maintenance or repair issues addressed in the last several years. As a result each and every fire station has critical issues that need addressed." I share his concern and have communicated this to both city administration and policy makers whenever possible and appropriate. This must be addressed immediately by both necessity and to prevent a catastrophic failure.

**Vehicles:**

For the last six months of 2006 I was responsible for MDF vehicles. During that time we took delivery of three new ambulances and one fire engine. Also, we refurbished an older fire apparatus and reworked the vehicle replacement plan. The refurbishing allowed the delay of a new purchase coupled with an updated vehicle replacement plan resulted in immediate savings of over three hundred thousand dollars and nearly \$3 million for the life of the twenty year plan. Day to day the personnel within the Division of Fire and the Municipal Garage find a way to do the job.

In closing, I am proud to report that despite the changes and challenges of 2006 the members of the Division of Fire delivered a quality and cost effective service to the City of Middletown. I pledge my support to these heroes and ask you for the same so they may safely continue to do their duty. You and I know their very lives hang in the balance.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Botts  
Fire Chief

# **ALARM DATA**

DIVISION OF FIRE

April 20, 2007

TO: Acting Chief Steven Botts  
FROM: Deputy Chief James Hall  
SUBJECT: 2006 Reports and Records

During 2006 we recorded 1,855 non-medical incidents, 211 more than 2005. These incidents include structure fires, mobile fires, outdoor/miscellaneous fires, calls for hazardous conditions, chemical emergencies, investigation and assistance calls. Also included in this figure are reports for fires caused by exposure to other hostile fires, civilian and firefighter casualties.

I am happy to report we had no fire fatalities in 2006.

Thirteen civilians were injured in fires. Six were treated by our Medics at the scene and refused transport. Seven were transported to Middletown Regional Hospital by our medic units.

Eighteen firefighters were injured. Three of the injuries resulted in lost time. Sprains and strains continue to be the leading cause of injury to firefighters. With only eighteen injuries in 8,549 calls for service, fire station maintenance and training, this shows our personnel's commitment to safety.

Our records contain all the information required by the State Fire Marshal's Office and are mandated by Section 3737.08 of the Revised Code of Ohio. These records are sent to the State Fire Marshal's office monthly via internet. They are then tabulated at the state level with records from other fire departments. After this information is processed, trends can be identified and common denominator in problems can be corrected. The State is then required to furnish copies to insurance companies and others upon request. The data from Ohio is combined with the other 49 states through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Based on national statistics, changes are made to model building and fire codes to reduce damage and injuries due to fire. In addition to code changes, national statistics may identify consumer products which need to be improved or recalled for safety concerns.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Officers and Firefighters for their prompt cooperation in completing these reports in a prompt and correct manner.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hall  
Deputy Chief  
Records Officer

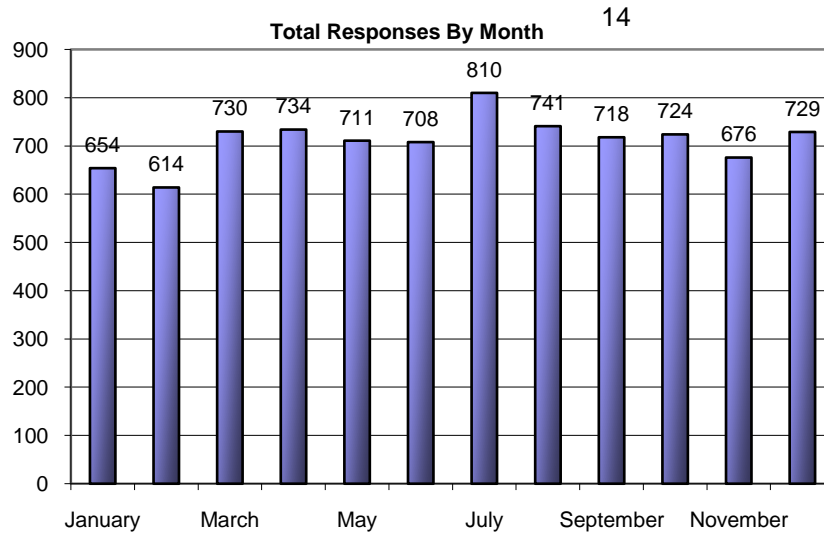
JNH/vcm

2006 MONTHLY ALARM DATA

MONTH	BUILDING FIRES	MOBILE FIRES	OTHER FIRES	FIRE LOSS	FALSE ALARMS	INVEST & ASSIST.*	EMER-GENCY RUNS	COS. ASSIST.*
January	8	6	3	\$45,950	29	88	520	382
February	9	1	3	\$47,725	25	83	493	358
March	11	4	4	\$441,050	30	104	577	449
April	13	5	6	\$58,475	40	97	573	437
May	11	3	7	\$63,750	29	89	572	400
June	12	5	8	\$586,400	30	104	549	387
July	15	9	13	\$178,850	37	121	615	469
August	11	6	14	\$76,850	29	90	591	439
September	10	0	1	\$95,250	43	98	566	387
October	12	3	3	\$35,855	31	119	556	367
November	14	2	3	\$138,020	33	112	512	370
December	15	5	3	\$179,635	30	106	570	379
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>\$1,947,810</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>6,694</b>	<b>4,824</b>

\*Investigation and Assistance Calls

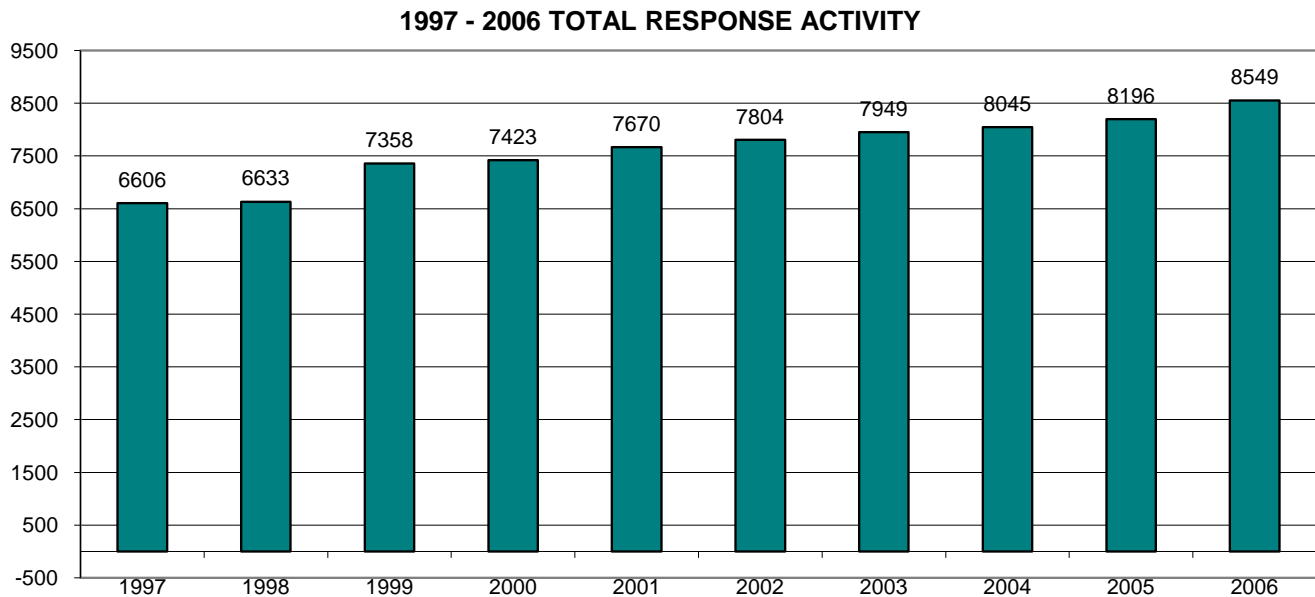
\*\*Engine Companies Assisting Medic Units



DIVISION OF FIRE ALARM DATA

FIRES	2005	2006
BUILDING	132	141
MOBILE PROPERTY	55	49
MISCELLANEOUS	76	68
FALSE ALARMS	341	386
TOTAL FIRE ALARMS	<u>604</u>	<u>644</u>
NON-FIRES		
INVESTIGATIONS/ASSISTANCES	1,040	1,211
MEDIC RUNS	6,552	6,694
TOTAL NON-FIRE ALARMS	<u>7,592</u>	<u>7,905</u>
TOTAL ALL ALARMS	<u><u>8,196</u></u>	<u><u>8,549</u></u>
DOLLAR LOSS*		
BUILDINGS AND CONTENTS	\$1,636,636	\$1,845,900
MOBILE PROPERTY	157,100	89,025
MISCELLANEOUS	9,300	12,885
TOTAL	\$1,803,036	\$1,947,810

\*DOLLAR LOSS FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES

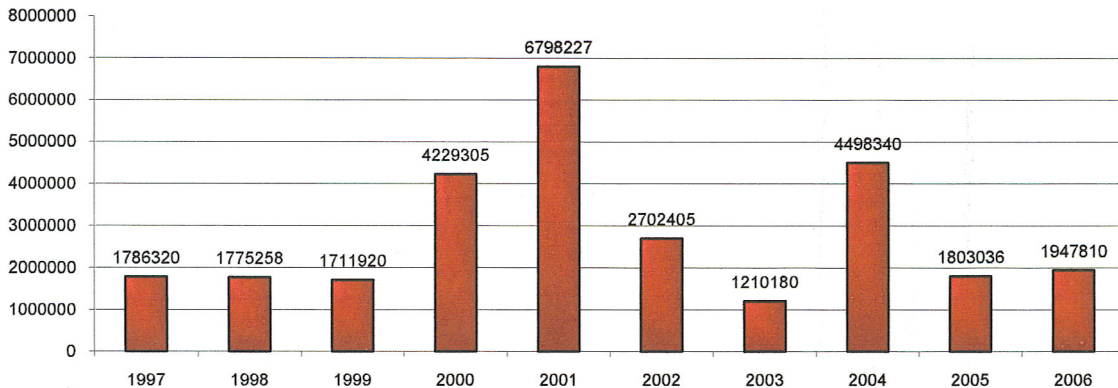


INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FIRES IN 2006 OF \$25,000 OR MORE

RESIDENTIAL FIRES IN 2006 OF \$25,000 OR MORE

TOTAL LOSS	ADDRESS	FIRE CAUSE	DATE
300000	119 S. Main St.	Arson	6/11/2006
275000	1343 Central Ave.	Undetermined	3/2/2006
150000	16 Sycamore Ter.	Undetermined	6/5/2006
75000	2212 Crescent Blvd.	Natural Gas Explosion	3/13/2006
70000	1513 Flemming Rd.	Arson	12/6/2006
50000	3809 Vannest Ave.	Arson	5/14/2006
50000	3200 Finley St.	Careless Smoking	7/1/2006
45000	1203 Baltimore St.	Electrical Short in Light Fixture	6/14/2006
45000	1510 Smith Ave.	Arson	11/11/2006
40000	1601 Orchard St.	Stove Left On	3/22/2006
40000	1 Alameda Cir.	Child Playing with Matches	6/26/2006
40000	403 Baltimore St.	Electrical Failure in Fan	8/17/2006
40000	1609 N. Breiel Blvd.	Light Fell on Combustibles	11/22/2006
35000	1317 Woodlawn Ave.	Undetermined	12/25/2006
30000	2215 Hill Ave.	Stove Left On	7/15/2006
30000	2222 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.	Light Fixture Installed Too Close to Ceiling	7/21/2006
30000	229 Park St., Apt. C	Unattended Cooking	9/8/2006
25000	2418 Superior Ave.	Chimney Mortar Deterioration	2/9/2006
25000	2617 Aspen	Electrical	9/12/2006

### Fire Loss



## LEADING CAUSES OF STRUCTURE FIRES

ORDER OF FREQUENCY	NUMBER
1 UNATTENDED COOKING/GREASE OR COMBSTIBLES ON STOVE/OVEN/VENT PIF	25
2 ELECTRICAL (WIRING, EXTENSION CORDS, OVER FUSED, ETC.)	19
3 ARSON/VANDALISM/CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	18
4 CARELESS SMOKING/IMPROPER DISPOSAL	14
5 UNDETERMINED	14
6 HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING/WATER HEATER/ MALFUNCTION/SHORT/LACK	10
7 EXPOSURES	6
8 COMBUSTIBLES TOO NEAR HEAT SOURCE	6
9 FIREPLACE/WOODBURNING STOVE (INSTALLATION/EMBERS)/ CREOSOTE	5
10 CHILDREN PLAYING WITH LIGHTER/ MATCHES/ FIREWORKS	4
11 APPLIANCE/TOOL MALFUNCTION/LACK OF MAINTENANCE/GAS LEAK	4
12 REKINDLE	3
13 IMPROPER USE OF COOKING APPLIANCES/CARELESS USE	2
14 TORCH/SAW (CUTTING, WELDING, SPARKS, CONDUCTION, ETC.)	2
15 MUTUAL AID	2
16 MACHINERY MALFUNCTION/LACK OF MAINTENANCE	2
17 CANDLE	2
18 STATIC ELECTRICITY SPARK	2
19 LIGHTNING	1
TOTAL	141

LEADING CAUSES OF FIRE IN MOBILE PROPERTY

<u>ORDER OF FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
1 ELECTRICAL	14
2 ARSON/INCENDIARY/MISCHIEVOUS	12
3 FUEL/OIL/POWER STEERING LEAK	9
4 UNDETERMINED	5
5 VEHICLE CRASH	1
6 OVERHEATED BRAKES	2
7 BACKFIRE	5
8 COMBUSTIBLES TOO NEAR HEAT SOURCE	1
TOTAL	49

LEADING CAUSES OF MISCELLANEOUS FIRES

<u>ORDER OF FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
1 ARSON/VANDALISM/CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	21
2 IMPROPERLY DISCARDED SMOKING MATERIAL	17
3 UNDETERMINED	16
4 REKINDLE	5
5 CHILDREN PLAYING WITH FIRE	2
6 SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION/CHEMICAL REACTION/STATIC DISCHARGE	1
7 LIGHTNING STRIKE	1
8 FIREWORKS	1
9 SMALL GRASS FIRE	1
10 CUTTING/WELDING	1
11 FAILURE OF CHIMNEY BOTTOM	1
12 MISCELLANEOUS KNOWN CAUSES	1
TOTAL	68

2006 CASUALTY REPORT

INJURY	TOTAL	FIRE FIGHTING	EMS	TRAINING	RESPOND/ RETURN	OTHER	LOST TIME
Sprain/Strain Back/Torso	10	5	5		1	1	
Sprain/Strain/Fracture Upper Limb	1		1				1
Sprain/Strain/Fracture Lower Limb	2		1		1		2
Burns	1	1					
Wound/Cut/Bruises	1					1	
Thermal Stress	2	2					
Respiratory Distress	1	1					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

2006 CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES

Deaths	0
Smoke Inhalation	5
Smoke and Burns	1
Burns	6
Fracture	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

6 Treated at the scene

7 Transported to MRH ER

**EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL  
SERVICES**

Division of Fire

April 2007

To: Acting Chief Steve Botts

From: EMS Captain David Adams

Subject: 2006 Annual Report

The task of delivering quality pre-hospital emergency care to a city of over 50,000 residents is a daunting assignment. The new age of EMS has certainly arrived and requires a level of “scene” care on par with many hospital emergency rooms. The EMS environment is demanding and constantly evolving. Middletown Paramedics & EMTs continue to meet the challenge. My job as EMS Training Captain is certainly made easier by the quality of the people that surround me.

Middletown Medic Units responded to 7,067 emergencies in 2006 an increase of 250 calls over 2005’s 6,817 calls. 7,067 is an average of over 19 Medic Unit responses per day. A total of 6,713 were calls of a medical nature, with 5,118 requiring transport to the hospital. Average response times have increased markedly the past several years, up to 4:17 minutes. This is a 30 second increase from the year 2000. This can undoubtedly be linked to increases in call volume and decreases in staffing.

MFD took delivery of 3 new Ford / Horton Medic Units in 2006. These replaced the aging front line fleet, some of which were relegated to reserve status. MFD applied for and received the Ohio EMS Grant in 2006. The funds (\$ 3500) were used towards the purchase of a new stretcher and stair chairs. We have again applied for this grant for 2007.

2006 saw the generation of \$1,005,953.29 dollars in revenue through the EMS billing process. This office is currently looking at ways to enhance this revenue as well as improve our patient data collection. Electronic patient data collection is being explored.

As a State of Ohio approved Continuing Education site, MFD provided 61 hrs of CE’s to our 77 Paramedics and 3 EMT basics. Topics included Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Trauma, Geriatrics, and Diabetes as well as others.

The important task of providing training that is relevant and current is made difficult when faced with a very limited training budget. The future holds more hurdles as Middletown Regional Hospital moves to the edge of our boundaries, thus increasing turn around time for our Medic Units. I predict the professionalism and dedication of MFD personnel will ensure the best service to our customers that circumstances will allow.

Best regards,

David Adams – EMS Training Captain

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ACTIVITY

### MEDIC RESPONSES TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

	2005	2006	CHANGE
MEDIC 1	2,398	2,430	32
MEDIC 3	2,197	2,221	24
MEDIC 5	1,872	1,995	123
RESERVE MEDIC	49	67	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,516</b>	<b>6,713</b>	<b>197</b>

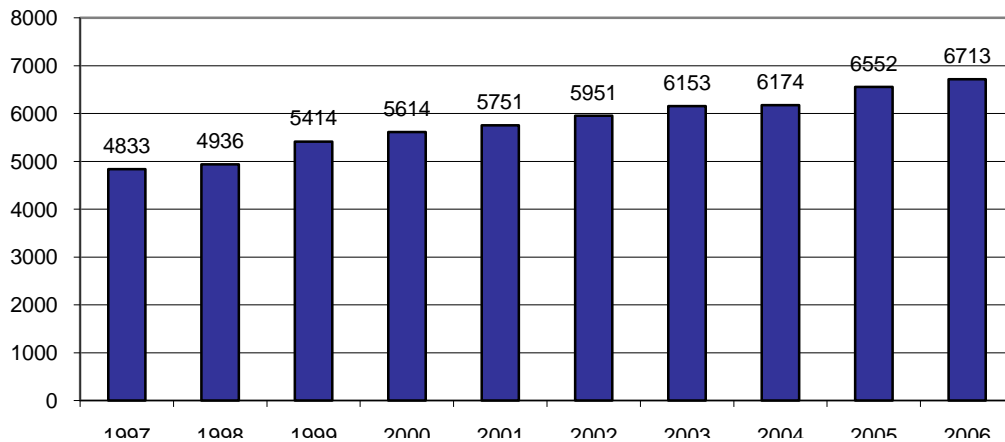
### MEDIC RESPONSES TO NON-EMS ALARMS

	2005	2006	CHANGE
MEDIC 1	116	135	19
MEDIC 3	125	149	24
MEDIC 5	61	69	8
RESERVE MEDIC	3	1	-2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>49</b>

### ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

	2005	2006	CHANGE
ENGINE 1	1,072	1,202	130
ENGINE 2	987	1,097	110
QUINT 3	1,451	1,513	62
QUINT 4	787	863	76
ENGINE 5	166	149	-17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,463</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>361</b>

### 1997 - 2006 EMS RESPONSES



MEDIC RESPONSES FOR 2006

	NON-EMS	EMERGENCY	TOTAL
MEDIC 1	135	2,430	2,565
MEDIC 2	149	2,221	2,370
MEDIC 3	69	1,995	2,064
RESERVE MEDIC	1	67	68
TOTAL RUNS	354	6,713	7,067
EMERGENCIES REQUIRING PARAMEDIC SKILLS			0
NUMBER OF TRANSPORTS TO HOSPITAL			5,118
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME: 4.29 MINUTES			

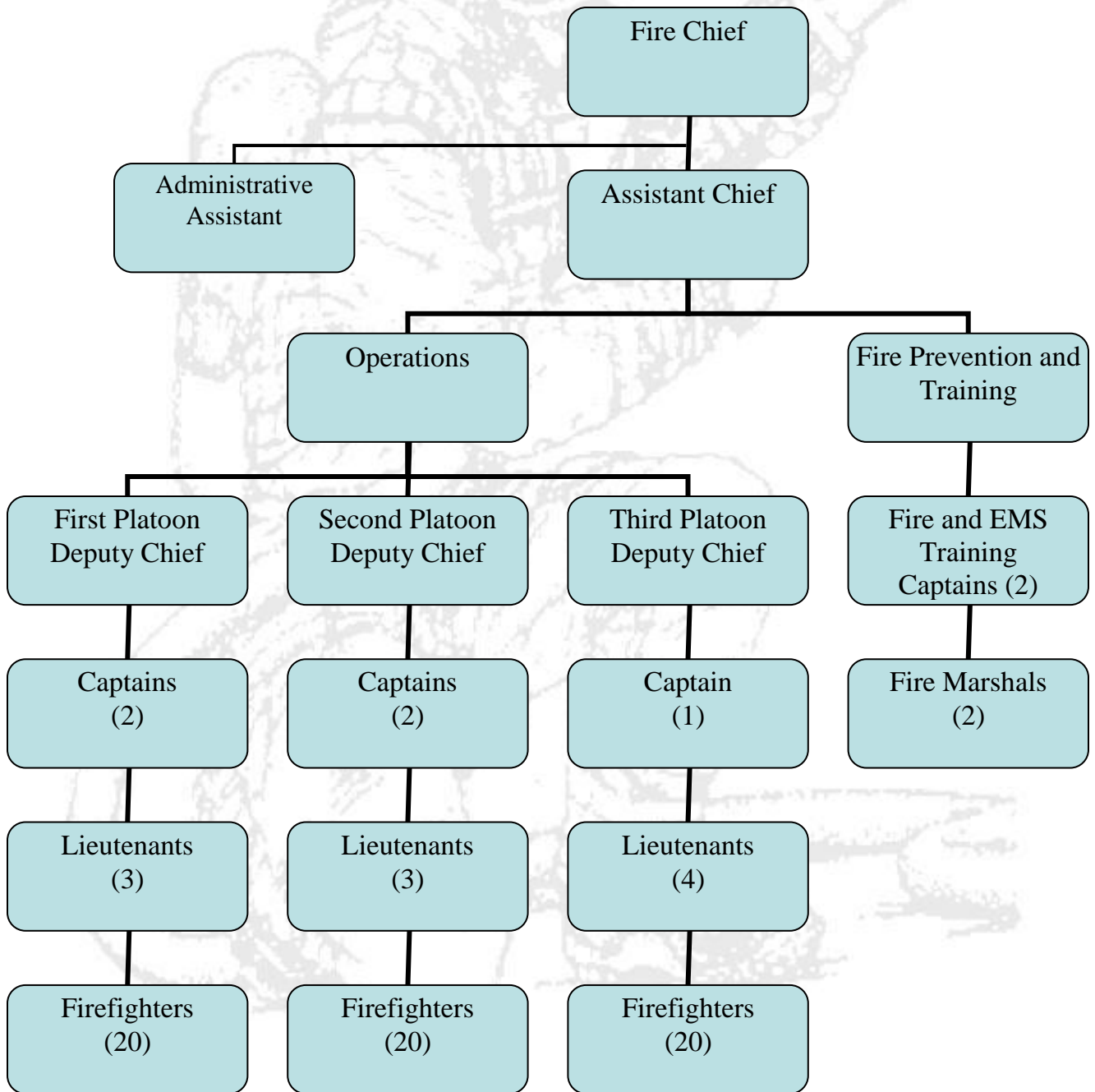
NUMBER OF RUNS BY TYPE

DIFFICULTY BREATHING	568	NERVOUS/MENTAL	127
CARDIAC	510	DRUG OVERDOSE	153
STROKE	87	DIABETIC	233
NO VITAL SIGNS	104	PAINS/ILLNESS	1,238
SUICIDE OR ATTEMPT	39	OBSTETRICAL	49
DIZZINESS/FAINTING	80	ENVIRONMENTAL	9
BURNS	20	TRAUMA	1,233
SEIZURES	164	OTHER	2,099

MEDIC 1 RESPONDS FROM 307 N. CLINTON ST. (#1 FIRE STATION)  
 MEDIC 5 RESPONDS FROM CENTRAL AVE. & BREIEL BLVD.. (#5 FIRE STATION)  
 MEDIC 3 RESPONDS FROM 2300 ROOSEVELT BLVD., (HQ FIRE STATION)  
 RESERVE MEDICS ARE STAFFED BY ENGINE COMPANY PERSONNEL  
 (IF PERSONNEL ARE AVAILABLE)



# PERSONNEL





# **FIRE PREVENTION**

## DIVISION OF FIRE

April 16, 2007

To: Assistant Chief Steve Botts  
From: Brent R. Hughes Fire Marshal  
Subject: 2006 Annual Report

The Fire Marshals office has many duties which include fire investigation, public education, fire prevention, inspection, code enforcement, juvenile fire setter classes, working as the Paramedics for the Specialized Response Team for the Middletown Police and also being part of the Butler County Fire Investigation Team. Where we are responsible for investigating fires in all of Butler County.

The advancement in the fire investigation field requires members in the Fire Marshals office to keep up on all available trainings to be proficient in the field. In 2006 both members trained to the level of peace officer as required by the City Codified Ordinance. As well as attending several trainings and meetings related to fire investigation.

### **FIRE INVESTIGATION.**

The Fire Marshals office is responsible for investigating fires that are high dollar loss; incendiary in nature and anytime that the Incident Commander on scene deems it necessary that an origin and cause be done.

In 2006 the City of Middletown Division of Fire had 644 calls for service relating to fires.

Building	141
Mobile Property	49
Miscellaneous	68
False Alarms	386
Total	644

In 2006 the Fire Marshals office investigated 40 fires in the City of Middletown and an additional 8 fires were investigated with the Butler County Fire Investigation Team. The breakdown for the fires in the City of Middletown is as follows.

Accidental	18	45%
Undetermined	04	1%
Incendiary	18	45%
Arson cases cleared	04	22%

Many of our investigations span over several years. Our clearance rate is only reflective of investigations that resulted in successful prosecutions for the year of 2006.

## **INSPECTION**

There were 1574 inspections completed by the Division of fire in 2006. Out of those the Fire Marshals office was responsible for 249. We handle inspections of major mercantile, factories, churches, nursing homes, all educational facilities and inspection follow-ups. In addition, we performed another 35 state issued fire safety inspections of homes for adoption, foster care and other child-care facilities. We also handle non compliant issues that are forwarded to us from the fire company level, for follow up to ensure that they bring their business up to the code standard of fire safety.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

In the area of Public Education, the Fire Marshal's performed numerous fire safety presentations, exhibits and tours throughout 2006. We also visited all the elementary schools sometime during the year to speak with kids on fire safety.

At the end of 2006, 18 juveniles ranging from 3 years to 17 years of age had been processed to varying degrees through the Juvenile Fire Setter Program. These numbers are increasing annually due to the court system using the program as one of its intervention tools. We also receive referrals from concerned parents and school staff. This program is utilized not only by residents of Middletown but the surrounding communities as well.

Additionally, we worked with various city departments such as police, property maintenance, building inspection, and health. We work together to investigate, identify and correct problems in new construction, existing and nuisance properties. Acceptance testing and installation reviews of new buildings also require our participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent R. Hughes  
Fire Marshal



## DIVISION OF FIRE

April 30, 2007

TO: Steve Botts, Acting Chief, Middletown Division of Fire

FROM: Richard Rainey, Fire Training Captain, Middletown Division of Fire

SUBJECT: 2006 Annual Fire Training Report

In 2006 the Middletown Division of Fire conducted 1574 commercial occupancy inspections. This is down slightly from 2005 when the division conducted 1641 property inspections. During these inspections the fire fighters look for conditions that may initiate a fire and issues that may affect the life safety of the occupants if there were to be a fire. There were numerous violations found and corrected but many minor violations were not followed-up on, mainly due to the decrease in man-hours available to go back and re-do the inspection.

The number of training hours slightly increased from 18258.5 in 2005 to 18296.5 in 2006. Training is becoming harder and harder to accomplish due to the interruption of the training classes with the number of calls for service. In fact there are some instructors that refuse to come and teach at our department due to the number of calls received and the class leaving to perform their duties. If the number of runs continue to increase there will be problems in getting re-certifications issued due to members missing training classes while out on runs. There are many ways to address these issues but they all will require an increase in the training budget so that we can fill-in positions while they attend training classes.

On February 28, 2003 President George Bush signed into law presidential directives HSPD-5, dealing with National Preparedness, and HSPD-8, which deals with Management of Domestic Incidents. How this affected us deals with ICS (Incident Command System) and the way we manage our incidents. These directives gave us orders to instruct our personnel in NIMS (National Incident Management System). This system uses the Unified Command structure of ICS and lays out common terminology so each person in the chain of command at an incident will be familiar with all parts of the ICS. I am pleased to report as of the beginning of 2006 all but 5 of our personnel have completed the required NIMS courses. The training office conducted 2503 man-hours of training in 2006 and these courses consisted of Confined Space Operations, HazMat Refresher classes, NIMS 100 and 200, Preplanning, Ropes & Knots, Ground Ladder Evolutions, Hose Evolutions, and NFIRS 5.0 (National Fire Incident Reporting System).

The NFIRS 5.0 cost the city a significant amount of money due to the amount of time invested not only by the Fire Division but also by Information Systems. There hundreds if not thousands of man hours devoted to bringing this system into the city's system, making it actually function on the city's mainframe, and trouble shooting the bugs in the software before we could release it for use. We still are in the process of finding all the bugs in the system and correcting them but they are much fewer and continue to improve daily.

In 2006 the division did not test any fire hydrants due to the reduced manpower and the number of daily runs. This cannot continue as we will be required to show at least one flow test on every

hydrant in the city in a 5 year period as required by ISO. This not only affects our insurance ratings it is also a safety need for our personnel to help ensure a reliable source of water. There are several fire departments in the area that have their hose and ground ladders tested by a third party company at a significant cost. The Middletown Division of Fire tests our own hose and ladders and this testing is conducted by the members on duty. This results in a large cost savings to the city. In 2006 we tested 29,310 feet of fire hose with 700' being 1" booster line, 10,860' of 1¾", 9,980' of 2½", 6,770' of 4", and 1000' of 5". There were 8 bad sections of hose discarded, repaired, or re-distributed where possible in the city that were not serviceable for fire service use.

The annual pump testing was done at Smith Park with all the equipment passing except for one and it was repaired but due to the length of time that the repair took the pump was not retested during the year. We have found that some of the pumps are starting to show their age in that it takes more horsepower and RPMs to get the same amount of water from the pumps than when they were new. This is indicative of pump wear, and in fact Engine 5 (Garage # ENG-3) is currently at Vogelpohl Fire Equipment getting a pump 'overhaul' due to the wear.

We continually seek ways to improve our service levels within our current budget. This is very difficult as we have limited funds in which to purchase training aids and programs. Most of our current funding is applied towards maintaining certifications within the scope of EMS. That having been said, EMS is 80% of our workload in terms of calls for service. But we still fight fires and therein lies most of the danger in terms of injury or death. We have looked at various ways to improve our training program and have found that it will require financial backing by the city.

As we look forward to 2007 the outlook for the training department is bleak as we are again without any discretionary training money. This puts our department at a great disadvantage and risk in that we cannot send out any of our people to learn new methods in fire fighting and EMS which they would then bring back to us. The city has a responsibility to provide a certain measure of safety to its work force and its citizens and that safety has been compromised. Our greatest resource is our people and we must continue to be very vigilant in our safety since we now have fewer fire fighters to do the required tasks during a fire. And each day those tasks grow as more standards are brought forward by NFPA and OSHA. Even though we are not required by law to meet most of these standards, we can still be held accountable to these standards in a court of law.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Rainey, Fire Training Captain



# **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

## DIVISION OF FIRE

April 30, 2007

TO: Acting Chief Steve Botts

FROM: Captain Brent Dominy

SUBJECT: 2006 Hazardous Materials and Confined Space Rescue Annual Report

### **Introduction**

The Hazardous Materials Team responds to chemical spills and leaks to protect lives, property and the environment. The team not only responds within the city limits of Middletown but also responds to areas of Butler County as part of the Butler County Hazardous Materials Cooperative. Furthermore, the Confined Space Rescue Team is comprised of a highly motivated group of individuals with specialized training to rescue people from spaces such as tanks and underground piping. The firefighters that make up these teams have advanced training to handle incidents and receive no extra pay.

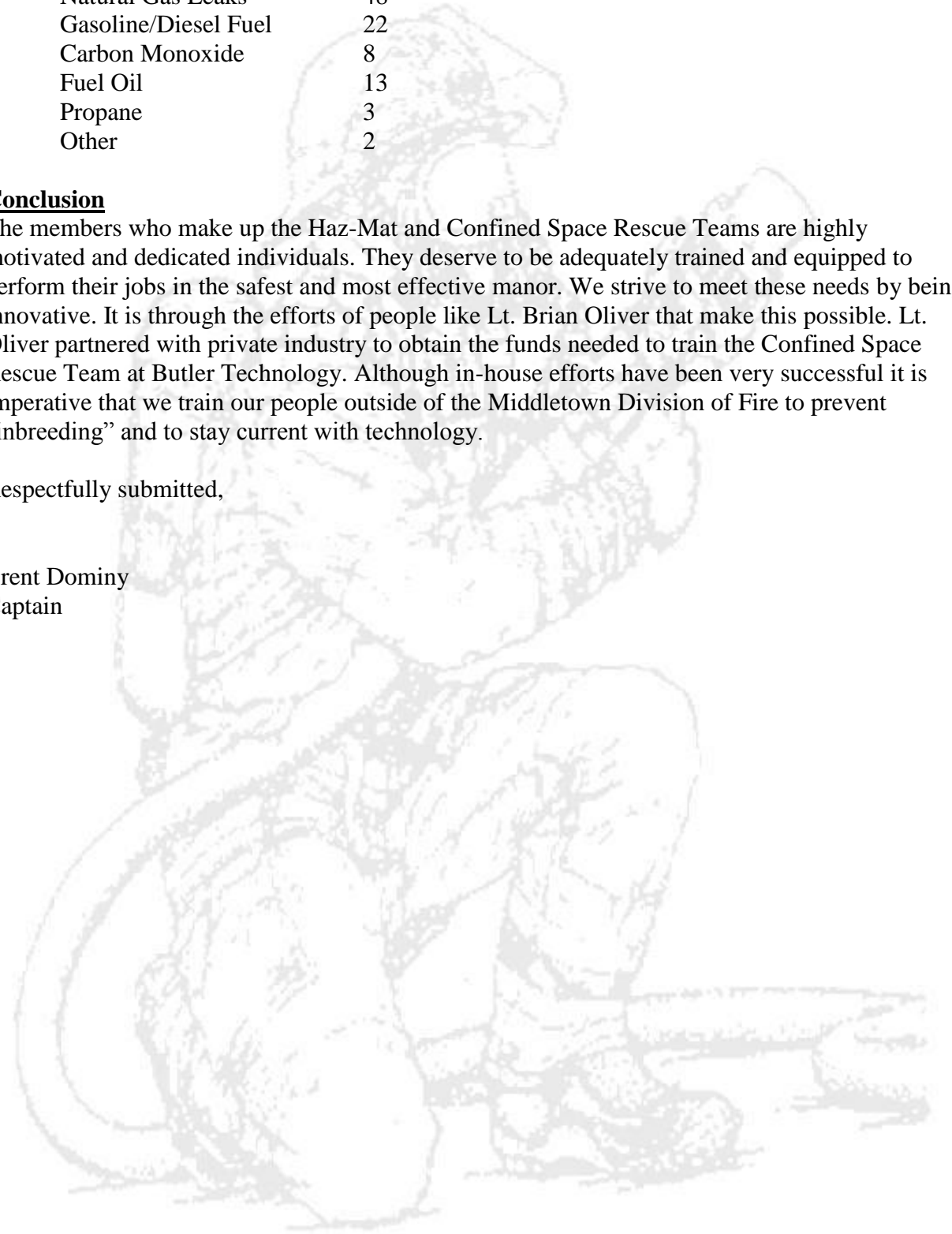
### **Training**

Haz-Mat response requires 8 hours of mandatory training annually but this amount is not adequate to maintain proficiency in all aspects of the discipline. Ongoing training is required to accomplish this. 2006 was a challenging year to maintain this proficiency due to cost containment measures. The Fire Division conducted annual Haz-Mat refresher training in house at no cost to the city. The Haz-Mat team, as part of the Cooperative, is required to train with the other Butler County teams on a quarterly basis. This joint training is critical to the successful outcome of a large incident as no one Haz-Mat team within Butler County can handle a large-scale incident by themselves.

The Confined Space Rescue Team is also required to train annually. This is accomplished through a partnership with Miller Brewery where they pay for one half the cost of the annual training. Additionally, Miller contracts with the Middletown Division of Fire Confined Space Rescue Team for standby assignments at the Trenton Facility. This partnership has proven to be a win-win situation for both parties.

### **Response**

The Fire Division responded to an assortment of leaks and spills 119 times in 2006. Of these responses the expertise of the Hazardous Materials Response Team was needed 10 times. Once again the majority of releases were hydrocarbons (fuel and oil) coming from over-the-road transportation vehicles. Listed below is a breakdown of the responses by type.



Fluid Spills-Clean up	25
Natural Gas Leaks	48
Gasoline/Diesel Fuel	22
Carbon Monoxide	8
Fuel Oil	13
Propane	3
Other	2

**Conclusion**

The members who make up the Haz-Mat and Confined Space Rescue Teams are highly motivated and dedicated individuals. They deserve to be adequately trained and equipped to perform their jobs in the safest and most effective manor. We strive to meet these needs by being innovative. It is through the efforts of people like Lt. Brian Oliver that make this possible. Lt. Oliver partnered with private industry to obtain the funds needed to train the Confined Space Rescue Team at Butler Technology. Although in-house efforts have been very successful it is imperative that we train our people outside of the Middletown Division of Fire to prevent “inbreeding” and to stay current with technology.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Dominy  
Captain



# **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

DIVISION OF FIRE

May 10, 2007

TO: Steve Botts, Acting Fire Chief  
FROM: W. Dennis Sorrell, Deputy Chief  
SUBJECT: Buildings

The needed maintenance and repair issues that need to be addressed in the coming years will be exceedingly expensive and will be getting more expensive with each passing day. If some remediation does not occur in the not too distant future, there will be a catastrophic failure of a structural component in one, if not several, of the stations. As of now, activities in several areas are forbidden due to the need for repairs. It is recognized that the City of Middletown is having significant and substantial financial difficulties; and further that there are many hands seeking any funds that may be available.

It can only be hoped that the gravity of this situation is in some fashion addressed in the very near future. The personnel of this division have maintained and repaired those things which were within their scope to maintain and repair; however the difficulties here addressed are well beyond that scope and capability.

Attached you will find a list of the needed capital expenditures by station, issue, estimated cost and remediation.

Thank you,

W. Dennis Sorrell  
Deputy Chief

<u>Station</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Cost estimate</u>	<u>Remediation</u>
Four	Roof	\$100,000.00	Replace flat roof with a trussed roof.
Headquarters	Roof	\$250,000.00	Replace structural defects in the steel roof and apply a new roof over the entire structure. There are several methods of affecting this issue.
One	Roof	\$150,000.00	Replace flat roof with a trussed roof.
Five	Roof	\$25,000.00	Strip existing roof and apply a new Roof.
Headquarters	Exterior	\$75,000.00	Remove oxidation from all exterior surfaces and repaint the exterior.
Four	Plumbing	\$50,000.00	Remove existing plumbing, replace and establish separate facilities for both genders.
One	Plumbing	\$50,000.00	Renovate existing plumbing.
Four	Electrical	\$25,000.00	Remove current, inadequate electric service and update that service.
One	Electrical	\$30,000.00	Remove current, inadequate electric service and update that service.
Headquarters	Parking lot	\$182,000.00	Remove asphalt surface and replace with an appropriate concrete surface.
Five	Exterior	\$25,000.00	Replace all guttering and down spouts, repair exterior surfaces, and repaint the structure.
Total		\$982,000.00	



# VEHICLES

July 6, 2007

FROM: Acting Chief Steve Botts

SUBJECT: 2006 Vehicles Annual Report

2006 was a year of continued challenges to The Middletown Division of Fire. Simply, with budgets remaining the same or shrinking as costs and calls for service increase the division is pressed to keep the system working and able to answer the call. I am proud to say the people that make up the division as well as other city departments continue to find a way. One example was a combined effort of fire and garage personnel to create and improve the system of communicating and training.

We accepted delivery of three new medic units in 2006. These are a different design. They have the truck chassis instead of the van style. Initially they presented some maintenance and service issues that were new and at times frustrating but thanks to the skill and work ethic of both fire and garage personnel appear to be resolved and in total improvement from previous designs.

Also new to the fleet was the delivery of a new Engine from Sutphen. It was placed into service at HQ station as E3. This was an improvement from the apparatus previously used there, Q3. You will remember Q3 was previously Q5 before Station 5 was "browned-out" as a Fire Station to a Medic Station. This resulted in four major pieces of apparatus instead of five and with the annual increase of 200-250 calls for service which continues to be the trend, engine apparatus can better handle the road miles than quint apparatus. Finally, E3 is doing a fine job but it must be recognized the fleet is less one and this notably is a ladder no longer ready for calls on the east part of town, negatively impacting both the emergency scene and the city's Insurance Service Office Fire Protection Rating.

Pump and ladder tests were conducted by Middletown Division of Fire personnel. The city is fortunate to have these required tests done by on-duty fire personnel rather than through contracts with private testing agencies as many municipalities do. This is one more quiet area that MFD gives a significant cost-effective quality service to the community.

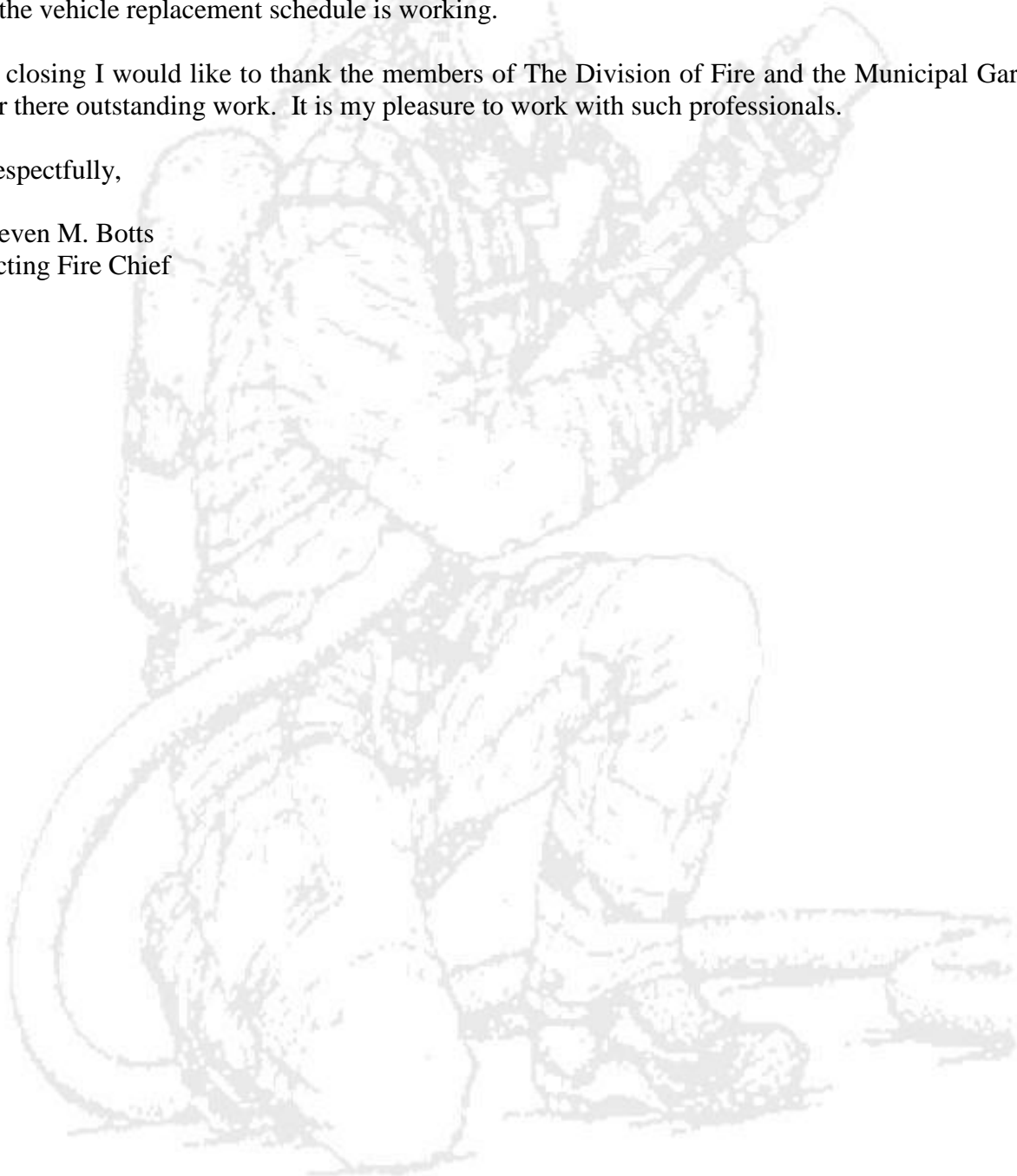
There was an unfortunate motor vehicle accident involving Reserve Engine 6 while being used as a front-line unit and responding to an emergency. The investigation found the driver not to be at fault but the damage to the vehicle was significant. After examination it was decided the best way to manage the situation was to refurbish the vehicle, it was significantly less expensive than purchasing a new vehicle and to date has proven to be a sound decision. This process may be an option used in the future to extend the life of some reserve vehicles to assist the city with limited financial resources.

Looking at replacement needs, the budgetary situation and operational profile continues to be uncertain for 2007 and beyond and as such it is difficult to predict the vehicles needed, that said, it must be done. Integral to accomplishing this will be the attached document, the division's equipment replacement list. Most critical is the point system used to determine the expected service life. The three columns: meter (mileage/hours), maintenance, and age each have a max value of 5 and cumulative total of 15. This is useful to determine when vehicles are in need of replacement, when issues such as miles or maintenance are positive or excessive, and ultimately if the vehicle replacement schedule is working.

In closing I would like to thank the members of The Division of Fire and the Municipal Garage for there outstanding work. It is my pleasure to work with such professionals.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Botts  
Acting Fire Chief



MIDDLETOWN DIVISION OF FIRE  
REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT LIST

EQUIP #	YR MAKE	MODEL	SERIAL #	IN-SERV DATE	ADJUSTED REPLACE	POINTS		TOTAL POINTS	EST REPLACE COST	
						MTR	MNT			
Van 3	1995 Chevrolet	Spt. G20	218804	Sep 05, 1995	Apr 03, 2008	3.81	505	5.00	13.86	23,855.98
Cap 2	2000 Ford	Expedition	B78873	Apr 28, 2000	Aug 03, 2008	4.62	3.83	4.49	12.94	31,478.69
Haz 51	2000 Chevrolet	C3500	520418	Jul 28, 2000	Oct 02, 2013	0.49	1.58	3.47	5.53	32,073.27
Q3	2000 Sutphen	Mini-Tower	003058	Sep 28, 2000	Dec 01, 2017	2.71	1.68	1.88	6.28	474,985.58
FM 2	2002 Chevrolet	K2500 HD	241700	Jun 24, 2002	Apr 03, 2011	2.04	1.28	3.59	6.91	39,062.53
FM 1	2002 Chevrolet	K2500 HD	241709	Jun 24, 2002	Nov 02, 2010	2.56	1.70	3.59	7.86	38,738.63
M4	2003 Horton	553-3 Ambulance	A34254	Mar 12, 2003	May 03, 2012	3.17	1.33	2.40	6.89	224,834.63
E1	2003 Freightliner	Pumper	K88831	Jan 16, 2003	Aug 31, 2020	1.92	0.81	1.24	3.97	1,054,768.18
C3	2005 Ford	F250	A37689	Oct 08, 2004	May 03, 2012	1.37	1.19	1.96	4.51	34,270.00
E3	2006 Sutphen	Pumper	003093	Oct 05, 2006	Oct 30, 2024	0.29	0.05	0.21	0.55	1,112,317.82
M5	2006 Fod	F450	A90501	Apr 04, 2006	Aug 02, 2012	0.98	0.21	1.04	2.23	142,877.87
M3	2006 Ford	F450	B42852	May 18, 2006	Aug 02, 2012	0.09	0.33	0.94	2.17	142,877.87
M1	2006 Ford	F450	B73363	Jun 05, 2006	Aug 02, 2012	1.00	0.30	0.90	2.20	142,877.87
PU3	1997 Ford	F450 PI	D13331	May 20, 1997	Feb 02, 2010	3.42	2.65	5.00	11.06	27,474.69
Q4	1997 Spartan	RA40M-2142	021013	Oct 13, 1997	Sep 02, 2014	3.64	2.64	2.70	9.98	1,083,331.16
E2	1997 Luverne	10851	024265	Dec 01, 1997	Mar 03, 2012	3.10	4.78	2.67	11.05	715,499.83
E5	1992 Sutphen	Pumper	003973	Jun 24, 1992	Feb 01, 2009	0.46	8.98	4.18	13.61	533,038.40
RE 6	1991 Sutphen	Pumper	003879	Jul 18, 1991	Jul 05, 2007	4.24	8.45	4.44	15.00	446,974.52
RE 7	1988 Sutphen	Pumper	003580	Jul 01, 1988	Jul 05, 2007	0.00	10.00	5.00	15.00	139,240.00
Haz 1	1993 St. Ives	SSV93-301	448987	Jun 18, 1993	Sep 02, 2014	2.05	1.05	4.68	7.78	114,167.32
T3	1989 LTI	LADR-PMPR	008031	Jun 01, 1989	14	2.74	4.17	5.00	11.91	660,232.60
M6	1999 Ford-Braun	E350	B94267	Oct 04, 1999	Mar 04, 2008	5.00	5.12	3.88	13.99	179,436.04
<b>Estimated Replacement Cost:</b>									<b>7,394,413.48</b>	